

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Official Publication of American Association of Engineers

CHICAGO

In Memory of



Dr. Herman A. Wagner

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M. E. McIVER, Editor

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WAGNER, Herman Alexander, Cons. engr.; born Grahamstown, N.Z., Apr. 17, 1864; s. William Alexander and Helen Rose (Cameron) W.; M.E., Freiberg (Saxony) Mining Acad., 1888; Ph.D., U. Heidelberg, Germany, 1889. Came to U.S., 1901, naturalized, 1906. Metallurgist, Dowlais Steel, Coal & Iron Co., Cardiff, Wales, 1889-90; mgr. Barney Barnato Bros., Johannesburg, S. Africa (gold mining), 1890-99; cons. engr. F. A. Heinze, Butte, Mont., 1901-04; mining engr. globe exploration, London, Eng., 1904-06; cons. mining and metall. engr. since 1907, N.Y. City, 1907-12, Mayer, Ariz., 1912-15, Chicago since 1926; pres., gen. mgr. Gray Eagle Reduction Co., since 1916; pres. Arminius Land & Cattle Co., since 1919, Mayer Ore Purchasing Co. since 1920; dir. Mayer State Bank. Field cornet Boer War, 1899-1901. Fellow A.A.A.S.; mem. Am. Assn. Engrs. (past pres.), Inst. Mining and Metall. Engrs., Inst. E.E., Am. Soc. for Engring. Edn., Soc. Am. Mil. Engrs., Electrochem. Soc., Chicago Tech. Socs. Council (dir., 1946-51). Co-author; Technologists Stake in the Wagner Act; Technologists Stake in the Taft-Hartley Act; Principles of Professional Conduct in Engineering (The Annals of Am. Acad. Polit. and Social Science), 1955. Contbr. articles on the "Deadline at Forty", prof. engrs. welfare, mediation in engring. publs. Acting as mediator and arbitrator in prof. engrs. disputes. Inventor processes for treatment of refractory ores, prodn. of electrolytic zinc, copper; process for the electrolytic deposition of rubber.

—from *Who's Who in America; American Men of Science*.

Members of the Association and his many friends in and out of Engineering have established a Memorial Fund and at a later date a Committee will be formed to decide on the type of memorial.

Herman A. Wagner

1864 - 1960

As I Knew Him Over the Years

I do not believe anyone who ever came into close contact with Herman A. Wagner could ever forget him.

It was early in June, 1922 that I entered the old Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the morning musical recital of a complete Wagnerian program.

I selected a seat near this powerfully built gentleman who resembled a Prussian Grenadier who was busily engaged with his program.

We introduced ourselves and he snorted when he heard that I came from Philadelphia and represented the east coast, as a delegate to the Salt Lake City Convention, A.A.E. He was the delegate from the Southwest Division, coming from Prescott, Arizona, his home town at that time.

Nothing more was said because the musical program was starting, and since we both loved opera, we listened to the Wagnerian music until the end.

After the recital we returned to the hotel for a solid week of caucuses and meetings, plus afternoon pleasure trips and evening dinners.

During this week of constant contact with each other, although we were on opposite sides of the fence, we actually became close friends, leaving for home, serene and happy.

This friendship continued unbroken until his death in 1960.

We never failed to visit him when passing through Chicago and corresponded continuously between visits. Thus we came to know the real Herman A. Wagner who had a heart as big as a bushel basket which he kept hidden under an artificial steel vest and poker face.

Nothing was ever too much trouble for him to do for a friend.

We exchanged information about individuals and problems all over the world, but he never became discouraged when "double crossed" by an individual or a group that he had helped to reach a goal or solve special problems not even when they seemed to *forget him*.

He always believed that some real good would be accomplished in the end and that time healed most of the sores, whether real or imaginary.

Since death must come to everyone, it seems almost prophetic that Herman was called to his reward on Palm Sunday, just as his Maker started his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane almost 2,000 years ago.

Herman A. Wagner will be missed by many who can truly say that he, like Abou ben Adhem, was one who loved his fellow man—and may the Lord have mercy on his soul.

Edmund J. Fitzmaurice,
Past President and
National Director

Dr. Wagner as his co-workers Knew Him

M. Patterson McGirr

All the facts about the remarkable career of Dr. Herman A. Wagner, distinguished engineer, philanthropist, and dynamic leader of engineering organizations, have been competently reported in "Who's Who in America," in the text of the Clausen Medal award, and in the address delivered by President P. J. Lucey, to the Chicago Chapter of American Association of Engineers immediately after Dr. Wagner's death. These records are reproduced in this issue of PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. They cover everything except the devotion he inspired in headquarters staff and in the engineers who worked directly with him. We speak here in recognition of the charm and personal worth of this great, dynamic, and lovable man. It is the privilege of headquarters staff and of Association members who knew him best to pay that final tribute—to attempt to give to all the people whom Dr. Wagner served in Association activities the vivid picture which will live in our hearts.

No one, except the people who worked closely with him, can imagine the *aliveness* of this man, but no one who ever talked with him for an hour could fail to recognize it. Everything interested him, not in a desultory way, but dynamically. The breadth and depth of this interest created points of contact that enabled him to understand other people's problems and hopes. No matter how much he knew about a subject under discussion, he listened to the other fellow—he did not expound or display his erudition. Socrates would have been proud to claim him as a pupil, so ably did he use questions to clarify problems and to draw from others recognition of



... His birthdays were gala occasions. Sometimes headquarters personnel gave him an evening of fun—usually a dress-up surprise party. Sometimes he celebrated his natal day by taking the office force out to dinner.

admission of facts that they had failed or refused to face. In pointing out fallacies, he was often blunt, but never sarcastic. Every man who came to him with a problem could be sure first, of his undivided, intelligent interest, and second of astute, wholesome advice. His guidance might be astringent, but it never, by contempt, undermined the other fellow's self-respect.



A group of Delegates to the early meetings of the Chicago Technical Societies Council, formed lasting friendships and usually met on Dr. Wagner's birthdays to renew these friendships and to honor a man they all admired.

People could accept criticism from Dr. Wagner because they felt the glow of genuine friendliness from him. This was the essence of the man's character. In his many years, of course, he had encountered the disillusionment that all active, successful men must meet in their dealings with people. He had encountered deceit, hypocrisy, disloyalty, and ingratitude, but such experiences served only to increase his understanding of men's weaknesses without embittering him. He was embarrassed by sentimentality, but in him was a deep well of sympathy for the weak and the inefficient and the unfortunate.

He was the kind of man to whom people gravitated because, with all his greater virtues, he was also entertaining, a conjurer who could create fun. He explored all the avenues that lead to full enjoyment of life. He loved opera; if he didn't at first get enjoyment from the performances of Elvis Presley, he had to observe and hear Elvis until he could ascertain

what other people enjoyed in his shows. He was a connoisseur of food, but being an engineer by temperament, he was also an experimentalist, and seldom let preconceived ideas or prejudices deter his investigations. He took a lively interest in all sports, baseball, football, hockey, racing, and boxing, not with the intermittent attention of a dilettante, but consistently. He was fascinated by gadgets and his desk was a miniature "old curiosity shop" covered with the novelties showered on him by friends who knew his fondness for them. He was intrigued by words and by unusual uses of words. His wallet was always stuffed with items he had clipped because of his own interest in them and with bits of information relating to the hobbies of his friends. He handed out these tidbits as Rockefeller handed out dimes—an odd stamp or foreign postcard for the little daughter of a filling station attendant, or a cartoon to the elevator operator relevant to some point long held in dispute by them (delivered with the somewhat abrasive humor which never concealed the kindness underneath).

Let the rest of the world honor, as it should, our "H.A."—as a scholar, a member of Heidelberg's Corps Westphalia, as the champion of the engineering profession who wielded his sword in many a significant fight, skillfully and buoyantly. It is impossible to overrate the service he has rendered his profession. To headquarters he is all this—and more. He is the man who gave help to hundreds who appealed to him, not as an engineering society official, but as a friend. Unobtrusively, patiently, he worked with them, giving them a hand over the rough places in their careers, building their self-confidence, guiding them around pitfalls. He was equally patient in developing the potentialities he discovered in employees. His interest did not wane when they left the Association. His treasured album is a pictorial history of employees and their children and their children's children—and every picture had to be signed and dated. We recognize his humanity as well as his eminence and pay our tribute to a man who set a mark at which others who hope to serve humanity well may aim.

He Served His Profession Well

by P. J. Lucey, President, A.A.E.
in an address before the Chicago Chapter

As we all know only too well, the passing of Dr. Herman A. Wagner is indeed a shock to all of us and to his many, many friends in many parts of the world. He made a deep impression on everyone he met, and a deep impression upon those who have known him over the years.

Members of the Association in and around Chicago, and particularly those in the Chicago Chapter know much of his good work, of his deep and sincere interest in the American Association of Engineers to which he devoted many years of his life because he believed that only through the

efforts and activities of the American Association of Engineers would the professional engineers of the land receive their just recognition and adequate compensation for their many contributions to civilization.

His work covered many fields, vocational guidance, registration, employment negotiations in particular for the older engineers, and members of the Association. He abhorred the 40-year deadline, and wrote many articles which were widely publicized throughout the land on this subject, showing the fallacy of this practice among employers. On the other hand, he did not hesitate to tell the engineers to KEEP up to date—to *broaden* their horizons—to *keep pace* with technological developments in all fields of engineering: to learn the many business problems that face industry: to keep up their personal appearance; in other words to *stay young in spirit, in action, in thought*.

After Dr. Wagner retired from active practice, he volunteered his services to the American Association of Engineers, and his first big undertaking was to put the association's service department on a solid business basis, in cooperation with another wonderful person, the late Kenneth Talbot, son of the well-known Professor A. N. Talbot, of the University of Illinois. It became a great deal more than a professional personnel service—it grew into a practical research bureau in which A.A.E. learned what employers wanted from engineers—what engineers lacked in their professional training which kept them from advancing to higher executive positions.

Dr. Wagner was alert from the very beginning to the trend toward unionism among sub-professionals set in motion by the Wagner Act. He studied the impact of the Act on professional employees and helped these engineers to maintain their "real freedom of association" under the Act. He visited and spoke to numerous groups of engineers, mostly by invitation; he attended many conferences on the subject, spoke before engineering societies, and was the moving spirit in the publication of the Association's book entitled "Technologists Stake in the Wagner Act," which served as an influential factor in revising the Wagner Act and the safeguards embodied in the Taft-Hartley Act.

He was the leader in the A.A.E.'s long and most successful fight against dishonest trade and correspondence schools which for years had preyed on unsophisticated young men and women, leading them to believe that they could qualify for high-salaried engineering positions with a smattering of training. He was instrumental in getting the better correspondence schools to form an Association to "clean house," which they did, calling the new group the National Home Study council. He himself reviewed many of the engineering courses offered by the better schools, and those he could not approve were dropped, in particular the courses on mining. A number of the dishonest schools, including Cooks, Dobe, and others were put out of business in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission, with whom Dr. Wagner was in close contact at all times, and the

Chicago Daily News who saw to it that publicity about the Association's campaign was given nation-wide publicity, thus creating a lot of trouble for the dishonest schools. Hundreds and hundreds of dollars in tuition fees were returned to Indians and others who were promised an engineering job after a short schooling at high rates, through Dr. Wagner and the Daily News.

I cannot in the short time allotted to me begin to tell you of the work Dr. Wagner has done for the engineer. Through the years he has crusaded without ever becoming stuffy or disillusioned. He believed that "human nature is human nature the world over" and no matter how clearly he saw their faults and their folly, he fought for the engineers of the future. A.A.E. was his hobby—engineers were his friends.

He rendered all types of assistance to members of the Association on many subjects. His wide experience in engineering gained in a practice which took him to all corners of the earth, his brilliant mind and his big heart and love of life gave him the wherewithall to help others, which he did unselfishly, and the many letters which have reached headquarters since his passing bear witness to the help he has given to his fellowmen. As one member living in Virginia put it: "Just to know that Dr. Wagner is at Headquarters where I can call upon him for advice when I need it, is an inspiration to me."

Dr. Wagner was a strong believer in unity in the Profession. He joined the Association in 1921 where he was active in the Prescott chapter of the Association. He believed in the aims and objectives of A.A.E. and worked to bring them about. The American Association of Engineers was organized in 1915 to supply certain deficiencies in engineering training to offset certain weaknesses in engineering temperament, and to counteract some very dangerous and widely accepted fallacies about the nature of "professionalism."

The Association was formed to enable engineers of all branches of the profession, in all stages of professional development, to cooperate in a single, truly fraternal organization, for improvement of the economic status of all members of the profession, for development of the personal efficiency of individual members, for organized service to their communities and the nation, and for integration of the engineering profession.

Dr. Wagner believed in these ideals and gave many years of his life to bringing them to fruition, without asking anything in return, except the support and cooperation of engineers who believed that the Engineer should be better recognized for his many contributions to society.

The best way that we as a chapter can say "Thank you!" to this wonderful man, is to build this chapter and the Association to a powerful force for good not only in the engineering profession, but in our respective communities.

His Distinguished Service Recognized

Dr. Wagner Awarded Clausen Medal in 1932

Periods of financial difficulty have a tendency to sharpen fangs and claws, rather than produce philanthropists. The Clausen Medal Committee of 1932, therefore, feels that it has met the condition of the award uniquely in conferring the medal on Herman Alexander Wagner, who under circumstances that have impelled most individuals to look strictly to the safeguarding of their personal fortunes, has stuck to an unremunerated post, valiantly protecting the social and economic welfare of engineers through the most trying period this generation has known.

Mr. Wagner receives the medal in recognition of personal devotion to the cause, but it is notable that the effectiveness of his work is due to its having been carried on through an organization. Mr. Wagner's professional success has brought him membership in many technical engineering societies, notably: The Electrochemical Society, American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, American Association for Adult Education, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Association of Engineers, but it has been through the American Association of Engineers that he has been able to devote himself to what he terms his hobby—the protection of the social and economic interests of younger men of the engineering profession.

In 1925, Mr. Wagner came to Chicago as National Director, to devote practically his entire time to the Association's welfare work. He took over the management of its Employment Department, then in its infancy, and put it on an excellent business basis. He worked out practical forms of health and accident insurance available to members of the Association at a small cost, and a type of accidental death and dismemberment insurance now included with membership dues. He has urged for years the advisability of developing a plan for unemployment insurance which would have meant much had it been adopted prior to 1929. Another vision of his, not yet realized, is an Engineer's Welfare Foundation.

Under Mr. Wagner's guidance the Association investigated and made public facts of utmost significance with regard to the "Deadline at Forty." He planned the survey of employer-engineer relationships, reported in 1928 in the *Professional Engineer* under caption "The Engineer as His Employer Sees Him," tending to answer the great professional question—Why is the engineer not better recognized, honored and recompensed for his contribution to civilization?" He later prepared an employment survey of engineering conditions, which is the most complete of its kind ever attempted.

Liveliest of his undertakings was his war on dishonest and inefficient technical correspondence schools which resulted in the formation of an association among the better type of schools for standardizing their work and practice.

Rich and successful professional experience in almost every corner of the globe—executive and technical work—is the background of the managerial skill Mr. Wagner has displayed in the Association. He is a thorough cosmopolite. His education and experience had an international character. Was born in Grahamtown, New Zealand, received the degree of E.M. from Freiberg, 1888; Ph.D. from Heidelberg, 1889. He is a member of the Corps Westphalia, Heidelberg. Has been engaged in mining engineering and operation on all five continents. Since 1909, he has been consulting mining and metallurgical engineer in New York, Chicago, Missouri and Arizona. He is the inventor of electrolytic processes for the treatment of refractory ores, copper, zinc, lead, molybdenum, and tungsten, and has many patents and processes to his credit.

Few men have so basic and so wide a knowledge of engineers and their problems—of their social and economic relationship to the scheme of things. Fewer still have the desire to put such knowledge entirely at the disposal of their fellows. This medal is but slight recognition of the valuable and unostentatious work Mr. Wagner has been doing for seven years—of the foresight that has caused him to develop the machinery to combat unemployment and other economic ills as he has done through this trying period, culminating, we hope, in 1932. He has had a steadying effect in his daily contact during this time with thousands of discouraged and almost desperate unemployed men, transmitting to them some of the confidence born of other storms that he has survived, that things must eventually swing back to normal.

The Association might well have bestowed on Mr. Wagner each year a medal for distinguished service to the organization, but this medal is in no sense a recognition of his work for American Association of Engineers. The Association is the merest instrument in his hands. He has proved it a valuable one and a medium through which other men desirous of promoting the welfare of engineers may well devote such proportion of their time and ability and influence as they can afford to give to the cause. He has demonstrated that only through an organization can engineers by cooperative effort achieve that measure of security and recognition that because of the tremendous social significance of their work they deserve. He has proved welfare work utterly essential and an association the best means of furthering it.

Please Excuse

Us for being late with the magazine, caused by the sudden death of Dr. Wagner on vacations, and moving our offices from the eighth floor to the fifth floor.

Forty and the Future

One of the national problems affecting engineers for many years has been what Dr. Herman A. Wagner called the "Forty-Year Dead Line." He deplored the situation ever since he has been actively connected with the American Association of Engineers. He wrote many articles on the subject, discussed the question before engineering groups and other civic bodies at various times always gaining considerable support and cooperation from the daily press. The dead-line is still with us, and because the subject matter of one of his early articles is still apropos in this atomic age, we reproduce it here. Let us hope that some other engineer or engineers will continue to carry the ball.

HOW does the engineer or other professional man feel at forty? "Fit as a fiddle," of course. Has not his training been tested, his education broadened, his experience increased, his judgment improved, and his vision enlarged? Physically, he is healthy and strong; mentally, alert and open-minded. Does such a person, then, not have the right to believe that he is at the very threshold of real accomplishment?

But what do modern American employers say and do? They are wont to disregard a man's belief and realization that he is not ready for the scrap heap at forty. They say that a person at forty is not adaptable, amiable, even-tempered, or progressive, and that he or she must not be employed. In other words, some magic power converts one on the fortieth birthday into a doddering, antiquated, irascible biped ready for the junk pile.

* * *

Suppose we take into consideration youth and maturity to see how they stand. The employer says that young employes are more adaptable, amiable, energetic, ambitious, and progressive. He thinks they are most stylish; he knows they are cheaper. He might add that they are also inexperienced, immature, undisciplined, changeable, and impatient. Young employes are frequently conceited, prejudiced, indifferent, unreasonable, tactless, and wasteful. The employers know that it requires more money to have older employes. This increase in costs may be through salary, higher rates for group insurance, or nearness to the pension in age. The older employe is certainly more capable and experienced. He is usually more settled, contented, and loyal. He is more likely to be attached to his work and interested in doing it well.

* * *

Granting that an older industrial worker's age does handicap him eventually, there is nothing to show that this handicap sets in as early as forty and that the situation warrants the immediate application of the age firing device. To establish any age limit for professional men is unwise; but to set it at forty—just when experience and practice have made one's work dependable and trustworthy—is sheer asininity.

* * *

No critical, thinking person can view age discrimination complacently.

Its relentless application against industrial workers is inadvisable; when directed generally against other workers, it is unthinkable. Curiously enough, modern American employers are the progenitors of the idea of measuring ability in terms of calendar age. In no other country is there such age limitation. Although the shortsightedness and inefficiency of this practice are admitted and regretted, songs of praise should be sung that the notion is recent and not universal. If forty incapacitates a man, will the enterprising captains of American industry explain what is wrong with this picture? Columbus made his first voyage to America after fifty; Gutenberg invented printing from type after forty; Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood when he was fifty; Bessemer discovered the pneumatic process of steel after forty; Pasteur evolved the treatment of rabies after sixty; Morse sent the first telegram after fifty; Clemenceau saved France after seventy; Von Hindenberg, past eighty, is restoring Germany. Dr. Hugo Eckner learned to fly after forty and flew around the globe at sixty. Shifting the scene to America, we might look at the ages of some engineers and scientists: Thomas A. Edison is active past eighty; Dr. Elmer A. Sperry is sixty-seven; Dr. Frank B. Jewett is fifty; John Hays Hammond is seventy-four; and Herbert Hoover is fifty-five. Among famous lawyers are Elihu Root, eighty-four; Charles E. Hughes, sixty-seven; Clarence Darrow, seventy-two. If a person after forty is not adaptable, amiable, even-tempered, or progressive, should not our diplomats be younger men? Undoubtedly the posts in England and Mexico are important; but look at the ages of the representatives: Charles Gates Dawes is sixty-four and Dwight W. Morrow is fifty-six. What part does age play with the presidents of the United States? The constitution forbids a man's being president before he is thirty-five. A study of the ages of the presidents reveals that only four have been president under fifty; as many have been over sixty; the remaining ones have been from fifty to sixty. That the United States has not suffered greatly at the hands of its presidents is a fact sufficiently well established to weaken the defense of the age discriminators. It is interesting to know the ages of some outstanding American industrial leaders. John D. Rockefeller Jr., is fifty-five; C. M. Schwab is sixty-seven; A. P. Sloane is fifty-four; Wm. Wrigley Jr., is sixty-eight; Gerald Swope is fifty-six; Henry Ford is sixty-six; and H. W. Westinghouse is seventy-five. The numbers of examples of activity and great achievement after forty are legion. Obviously everybody is not capable of such accomplishments at this age. But the important point is that if age is the determinant of ability and if the age limit is to be arbitrarily applied, the opportunity to advance would be withheld.

What will be the outcome if this vicious practice is not stopped? If the work span is to be shortened, why should good billions be spent to increase the life span? Although scientific improvements in health conditions have already increased the normal life of the individual, even more attention and money are being given to the diseases of maturity. Undoubtedly then, the promised three score and ten will become more and more a reality.

Sloop Okalani (of the Stars) pride of the Bodeys



Ginger, her Daddy's boat girl, is an expert sailor

C. E. Bodey, Los Angeles, a member of A.A.E. with several hobbies one of which is sailing, enjoyed also by his family. Dr. Wagner's album of friends includes many snaps of members and their families and their children's families. When there was a wedding, he got a picture; when a baby was born, he received a picture; when there was a family reunion, he got a picture.

But if a man cannot hold or get a job after he is forty, why should scientists seek to prolong his life? The reverse would be more humane if almost the last half of life is to be spent in uselessness, idleness, and often penury.

Is anything being done to combat age discrimination and the resultant unemployment? The problem is far from solution; fortunately, however, it is being recognized. That in itself is a hopeful sign. Capital, labor, and government are giving thought to the situation. Some employers have made and are making honest efforts in that direction. Transfer or re-education of workers, unemployment compensation, and reduction of fluctuation of output are measures that have been adopted with some success. Labor organizations are working on unemployment insurance. Certain states are enacting such relief measures as old age pensions. The federal government has increased appropriations for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to permit the gathering of better employment data; it has also provided for unemployment to be included in the 1930 census. Furthermore, bills are being proposed in Congress that would give additional aid. One is to provide employment in slack times by construction of public works; another is to establish a national system of free employment agencies. Secretary of Labor James J. Davis believes that the campaign to retain older workers in jobs is gaining ground. He is in strict sympathy with the campaign; he regards as false the theory that youth gives more efficiency than age and experience. When the extent of unemployment is better known, the various interested agencies can work more effectively towards its reduction. But the problem is an enormous one that calls for the unremitting energy and effort of everybody concerned. Statistics of unemployment will not suffice. Some re-education on the part of employers is needed. The age question must be determined accurately.

* * *

These proposed plans are expected to alleviate the general situation.

Naturally, industrial and non-professional employes are more numerous and their need for work is more acute. Any general improvement will be felt somewhat by professional workers. The professional problem, however, must be solved by professional organizations. Each profession must look to its own organization to assume the lead. Age discrimination against the engineer is preposterous. Engineers of all groups are feeling its effects. It is a national professional problem that engineers must face and fight.

Have a Hobby and Stay Young



Vic Housholder, Director, A.A.E., bringing home "the bacon." Much as he likes outdoor life, he finds time for a good many civic activities, in addition to his work in the Phoenix Chapter.



Ernest A. Taylor, Tampa, Fla., has an interesting hobby, Herpetology. Evidently he likes to "cuddle" snakes better than your editor. His letters to the Secretary are always inspirational.

San-Bernardino Valley College Chapter

An interesting letter from Duane Swinney, secretary-treasurer of the student club at San Bernardino Valley College, tells us that the young engineers are proud to be members of A.A.E. "Our many activities," says Mr. Swinney, "have included field trips to the steel and aircraft industries; educational meetings, and we are glad to report that our membership is increasing as the year progresses."

Don Hodel is the president and has shown fine leadership, and has been ably assisted by the vice president, Richard Gonzolez, who has been taking care of publicity. Interesting trips have been arranged by the program chairmen, Steve Johnson and David Smith.

Arthur Benline Appointed Commissioner

Arthur J. Benline (member of AAE since 1923) of Manhattan was sworn in as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Air Pollution Control, by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, on Monday, March 7th, in City Hall.

Commissioner Benline, who is a Professional Engineer and a Registered Architect, assumes his new position after having been Director of the New York State Building Construction Code since 1952. Before that, he was Manhattan Superintendent of the then Department of Housing and Buildings for 12 years, and had previously served in the Richmond and Brooklyn office. During the 1930s, Commissioner Benline supervised many City schools, hospital and other projects for the Federal Public Works Administration.

Before entering public service, Commissioner Benline directed the construction, including the installation of mechanical equipment, of many large theatres and commercial buildings for the Loew, Fox and RKO circuits and major oil distribution facilities for Socony-Mobil. In these operations, he was associated with prominent New York architects and structural and mechanical engineers.

A native New Yorker, Commissioner Benline attended City schools, New York University and others. He is licensed to practice architecture and engineering in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

During World War II, Commissioner Benline commanded a Seabee battalion and amphibious forces task groups, with naval construction duty in the Mediterranean, and fleet operations throughout the Pacific, including combat assault landings at Okinawa. He holds the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart and ten other decorations, including the New York State Distinguished Service Cross. He is a Captain in the Civil Engineer Corps, United States Naval Reserve. During World War I, he served in the New York Guard.

Commissioner Benline is a Past President of the Building Officials Conference of America. He is widely known for his work in drafting, administering and enforcing modern building regulations, including those for mechanical installations.

O. H. Kneen

Many of our members, especially those in and around Washington, D.C., and the State of Washington, will be interested in knowing that when he retired from the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, Mr. Kneen was honored by his co-workers at a luncheon at Patton Hall, Fort Myer. Mr. Kneen was a former director of the American Association of Engineers. He is author of several books dealing with popular science, aviation, mechanics and inventions.

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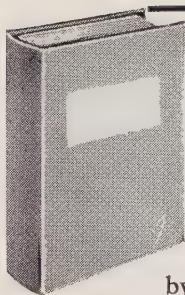
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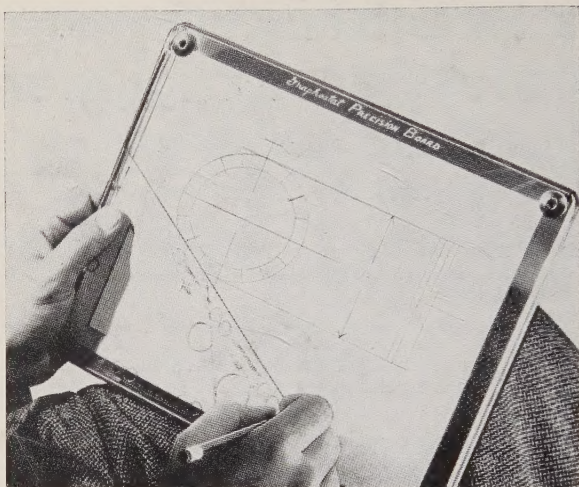
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